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Original Research Article

Income Pattern of Monpa Farmers- A Case of West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh, India**Dr. Philip Mody¹, Sangey Tsering², Kumar Tok³, Dr. K. Sotechand⁴, Dr. Odang Tayeng⁵**¹Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, India²Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Donyi-Polo Govt. College, Kamki, Arunachal Pradesh, India³Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Dera Natung Govt. College, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, India⁴Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, India⁵Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, India

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Abstract: Income pattern of people is one of the key socio-economic indicators. It unrolls the purchasing power and standard of living of people from a particular community, region and nation. Income status helps in understanding 'Saving Behaviour' and 'Investment Potential' of a particular community or area. The farmers of Monpa community from the West Kameng District have fascinating income and expenditure facts. It is reported during the present study that an average farmers of the study area earns Rs 13,850 per month and spends a total of Rs 4,793 per month. It is revealed during the study that 57 persons off 131 total samples which constitute 43.51 percent of respondents earn between Rs 5,000 to 10,000 per month. Fascinatingly, Remittances, Grants and Donation are the highest sources of income of the farmers which constitutes 29.73 percent of the total income. On circle wise analysis, Dirang Circle is on the top in terms of monthly average income. Further, Male farmers are earning more than female counterpart in the study area. In addition, 43 percent of the total sample has earned income from 'Wage plus Farm Income' which stands highest in terms of Combination of Sources of Income. So, the Monpa farmers from the study area earn good income. It far exceeds the expenditure. Thus, their saving is remarkable so is the socio-economic silhouette.

Keywords: Arunachal Pradesh; Income; Monpa; West Kameng

INTRODUCTION

Income and expenditure pattern of people in a country is one of the important factors influencing the economic development of a particular economy. The term 'income' in general means money (cash), goods and services in return of labour or for the use of other resources. Economists classify income into two categories. Income received in return of labour is called earned income such as salary and wages. Income received in return for the use of resources other than labour is called unearned income such as rent, interest, and profit. The personal income that remains after taxes is called disposable income, which is available for consumption and saving. The disposable income left after paying basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter is discretionary income, which is available for meeting other expenditures and saving. (Salamma, A.O. 2013).

The income and consumption are inter-related or inter-connected. A low level of income leads to low levels of consumption, which in turn, results in low

standard of living. The level of consumption at times may be low even in an advanced economy. This may be due to lack of effective demand as a consequence of over production. But in the case of underdeveloped economy, low level of consumption is not due to over production but due to low level of income. The level of living of an individual is indicated by his or her level of consumption. Consumption is a major criteria for the well-being of the people in terms of mental, physical and social health. It stimulates individuals to earn more income. So the income and expenditure pattern of an individual, a region or a country reveals the economic status and standard of living of that individual, region, state or country. The present study is confined to the *Monpa* farmers of *West Kameng* District of Arunachal Pradesh. The study endeavors to analyze the income pattern of farmers among *Monpa* community of Arunachal Pradesh, India.

ORIGIN OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

In the presence of different tribal groups, the income-expenditure patterns may differ among

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households. Household expenditure patterns are largely influenced by the household's needs, preferences, and financial means. In addition to their current income derived from the ownership of factors of production, households may finance their expenditure from a number of sources such as wages, remittances, etc. but in a context of a state like Arunachal Pradesh majority of the population depends on agriculture and its allied activities for earning their livelihood. The majority of the people and tribesmen share a living style of nuclear as well as joint family. The geographical characteristics of any particular areas of the state will provide an incredible view of both scenic beauty and different patterns of living style in the tribal land. In general, the level of consumption expenditure of the tribal people in the rural areas basically depends directly or indirectly on the amount of output they can produce from their farm lands or by selling their labour in the agriculture sector. As such, their level of consumption is generally determined by the subsistent agricultural production. But, with the penetration of the effects of globalization even in the rural areas, their consumption baskets have now changed which has forced them to produce for markets whether may be in form of consumable or non-consumable goods.

The *Monpa* community inhabits at an average altitude of 7500ft above sea level. They have settled down in *Tawang* and *West Kameng* Districts of Arunachal Pradesh with variant dialects, living pattern, customs & traditions yet sharing the common sets of faith and beliefs in the form of Mahayana Buddhism. The whole tribe has immensely contributed to relevant fields of the economy. They enjoy various professions and business occupations all over the state. But the consumption pattern, as well as the sources of income of the *Monpa* people and their saving habits, are basically questions yet to be answered as it highlights their contribution to the overall economy of the state. The present study examine the issues directly or indirectly related to the present income patterns of the local *Monpa* farmers under various circles and villages of *West Kameng* District, Arunachal Pradesh. It endeavours to address the basic research questions like-

- What is average income level of the *Monpa* farmers?
- What is the income composition of the *Monpa* farmers?
- Which circle under the study area earns highest monthly income?
- Whether male farmers earn higher than female or not?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study attempts to throw light on the level, composition and distribution of income of *Monpa* farmers in *West Kameng* District. It examines the factors affecting income and measures the income and

household size elasticity of different items of expenditure. This study covers the *Monpa* households situated in the villages of *West Kameng* district, deriving the major source of income either from agriculture or allied activities. It analyses only the disposable income, i.e., the net income of the farmers minus tax liability (if any), as this disposable income is available at the disposal of the household for meeting the consumption expenditure and saving. This study is confined to the disposable income pattern of the farmers from *Monpa* community of *West Kameng* District. The present study analyzes the Income pattern among farmers of *Monpa* community in the *West Kameng* District of Arunachal Pradesh. Moreover, the present study assumes importance because most of the earlier studies were concentrated on the socio-economic and occupational structure of the scheduled tribes and *Monpa* Community is one of them. The present study unfolds answers to many research questions pertaining to income pattern among farmers of *Monpa* community.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Following are the primary objectives of the study:

1. To examine the level, composition, average income of the *Monpa* Farmers.
2. To analyze Income Pattern of the farmers by circle, gender and combination of sources of income wise.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- ❖ **Research Methods & Tools:** The present study is both descriptive and empirical in nature which is based on primary and secondary data. The present study is primarily based on Field Survey. The family members of the *Monpa* community from *West Kameng* District has been the main source of primary data. The tools like personal interview, observation, telephonic conversation, structured schedule, personal notes and diary entry were used to collect field data. Also audio tapes or video filming were considered during field survey.
- **Sources of Data:** Basically the study is based on primary data. Primary data have been collected directly from the farmers with the help of a pre-tested interview schedule. Secondary data is collected from journals, magazines, newspapers and books, documents, pamphlets, and reports published by the Department of Agriculture and Department of Economics and Statistics. Also, relevant websites have been referred to for important information.
- **Sampling Technique and Size:** For the present study, multi-stage convenience sampling under non-probability sampling technique has been used. The study has been carried out in five out of 13 circles of *West Kameng* District namely- *Dirang*, *Thembang*, *Bomdila*, *Kalaktang* and *Balemu* respectively. Also, 0.5 percent of schedule tribe population from each

circle has been selected for the present study. The samples cover family members of the farmers from Monpa community only. Altogether, 131 samples have been selected for the study.

- **Geographical Coverage:** The geographical coverage of the Study Area extends over five circles of West Kameng District.
- **Period of the Study:** The present study covers a period of 12 months from January 2017 to December 2017. However, the secondary data have been taken from several sources over last five years.
- **Tools of Data Analysis:** The study specifically focused on the family members of the farmer from Monpa community residing in West Kameng District. Field data have been analyzed using statistical tools like- MS Excel and SPSS.
- **Limitations of the Study:** During the study, it is revealed that most of the households have not maintained proper records for income and expenditure. The members of the household could furnish the information only from their memories.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Socio-economic conditions of a community have a great impact on their income and expenditure

pattern. Likewise, the income and expenditure pattern reveals the socio-economic status of a particular community. Hence, some link can be established between socio-economic conditions and general income and expenditure pattern of a farming community. Some important analysis pertaining to income of Monpa farmers of the Study Area has been made as under:

1. Monthly Income Levels of the Respondents:

In order to understand the composition of the income, the whole sources have been divided into 10 major heads (sources) namely, Salary, Rent, Agro-Forestry Products, Wages, Industrial Products, Livestock and its products, Interest on Lending, Mixed Sources (Contracts & Construction), Trade & Commerce, Remittances from kin and kith, Donations, Grants etc. The data related to monthly income is collected from 131 sample respondents over five different circles of the West Kameng District.

It is revealed from Table 1 that 57 persons off 131 total samples which constitutes 43.51 percent of respondents earns between Rs 5,000 to 10,000 per month. Also, 14.50 percent respondents earn between Rs 10,000 to 15,000 per month.

Table 1: Monthly Income Levels of the Respondents

MONTHLY INCOME	Circles					Total
	Dirang	Thembang	Bomdila	Kalaktang	Balemu	
Upto 4999	01	02	02	05	06	16
5000 to 10000	15	01	16	17	08	57
10000 to 15000	08	03	01	05	02	19
15000 to 20000	11	01	01	01	00	14
20000 to 25000	08	00	00	00	-	08
25000 to 30000	05	01	01	01	-	08
30000 to 35000	02	-	01	-	-	03
35000 to 40000	02	-	-	-	-	02
40000 to 45000	00	-	-	-	-	00
45000 to 50000	01	-	-	-	-	01
50000 to 55000	00	-	-	-	-	00
55000 to 60000	01	-	-	-	-	01
60000 to 65000	00	-	-	-	-	00
65000 to 70000	00	-	-	-	-	00
70000 to 75000	00	-	-	-	-	00
75000 and Above	02	-	-	-	-	02
TOTAL	56	08	22	29	16	131

Source: *Field Survey, 2017-18*

Further, very trifling number of respondents earns above 50,000 per month. It shows that possession of disposable income in the hand of the farmers is very low.

2. Composition of Income:

It is unveiled from Table 2 and Diagram 1 that Remittances, Grants and Donation is the highest sources of income of the farmers under study which constitutes 29.73 percent of the total income.

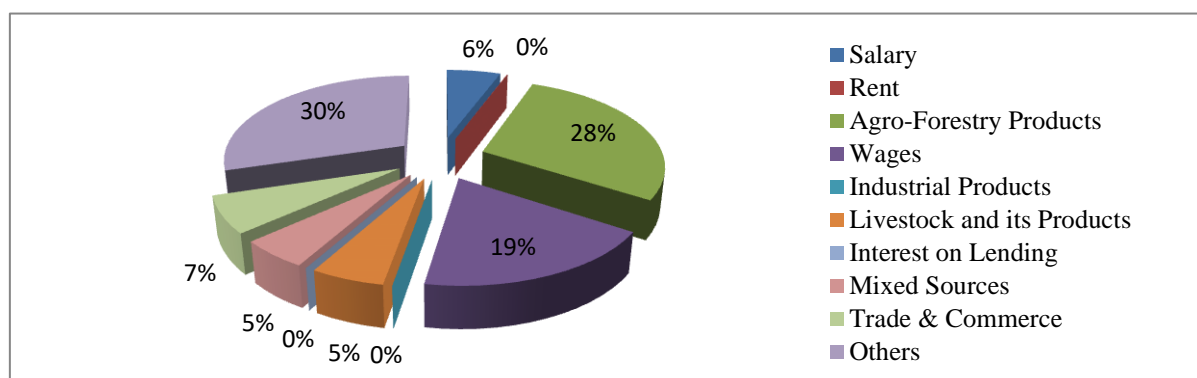
Table 2: Composition of Monthly Income (Circle-Wise)

Monthly Income (in Rs.)	Frequencies of the Circles					Total	Percentage
	Dirang	Themban g	Bomdila a	Kalaktang g	Balemu		
Salary	68000	7000	25000	0	3000	103000	5.68
Rent	0	0	0	1000	0	1000	0.06
Agro-Forestry Products	456000	0	7000	45000	8000	516000	28.44
Wages	116600	17700	49250	100200	53150	336900	18.57
Industrial Products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock and its Products	54000	6000	28000	11000	0	99000	5.46
Interest on Lending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed Sources (Contracts & Constructions)	75000	0	5000	6000	9000	95000	5.24
Trade & Commerce	74000	10000	11000	24000	5000	124000	6.83
Others (Remittances, Grants, Donations etc)	273000	62500	110000	62000	32000	539500	29.73
TOTAL	1116600	103200	235250	249200	110150	1814400	100
Average income	19939.28	12900	10693.2	8593.1	6884.38	13850.4	
No. of Respondents	56	08	22	29	16	131	
Total Respondents	131 (100%)						

Source: Field Survey, 2017-18

Further, it is observed from Table 2 and Diagram 1 that Agro-Forestry Products has occupied the second slot which shares 28.44 percent of the total

monthly income. Likewise, wages, trade & commerce, salary have occupied the third, fourth and fifth places.

**Diagram 1**

3. Average Monthly Income:

It is revealed from the Table 3 and Diagram 2 that the Average Income of the farmers under the study is highest in Dirang Circle with the monthly average income of Rs 19,939. It is followed by Thembang

Circle with Rs 12,900. However, it is found to be lowest in Balemu Circle. Altogether, the average monthly income of the Study Area is Rs 13,850 as being revealed from Table 3 and Diagram 2.

Table 3: Average Monthly Income of the Farmers (Circle-wise)

Sl. No.	Circles	Average Income (in Rs)
1.	Dirang	19939
2.	Thembang	12900
3.	Bomdila	10693
4.	Kalaktang	8593
5.	Balemu	6884
6.	Study Area (Average)	13850

Source: Field Survey, 2017-18

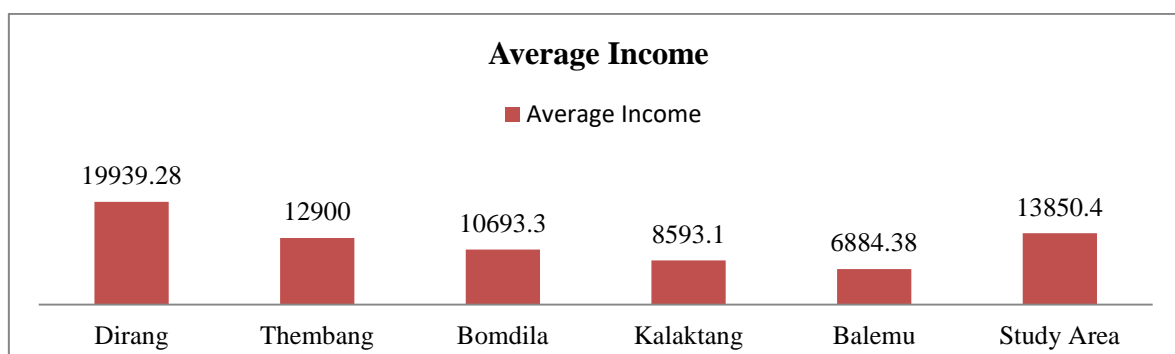


Diagram 2

4. Gender Wise Average Income:

It is observed from Table 4 and Diagram 3 that Male farmers are earning more than female counterpart. Male farmers are found to have earned average amount of Rs 15,604 per month. On the other side, female farmers have earned average monthly income of Rs

11,010 only. Further, male and female farmers have earned maximum income in Dirang Circle as revealed from Table 4 and Diagram 3. On interesting note, income of the female farmers has surpassed male farmers in Bomdila Circle.

Table 4: Average Income (Gender Wise)

Gender	Average Income					Total	Average
	Dirang	Thembang	Bomdila	Kalaktang	Balemu		
MALE	21736.84	14950	10545.45	9038.88	8687.5	1263900	15603.70
FEMALE	16144.44	6750	10840.90	7863.63	5081.25	550500	11010.00
						1814400	13850.38

Source: Field Survey, 2017-18

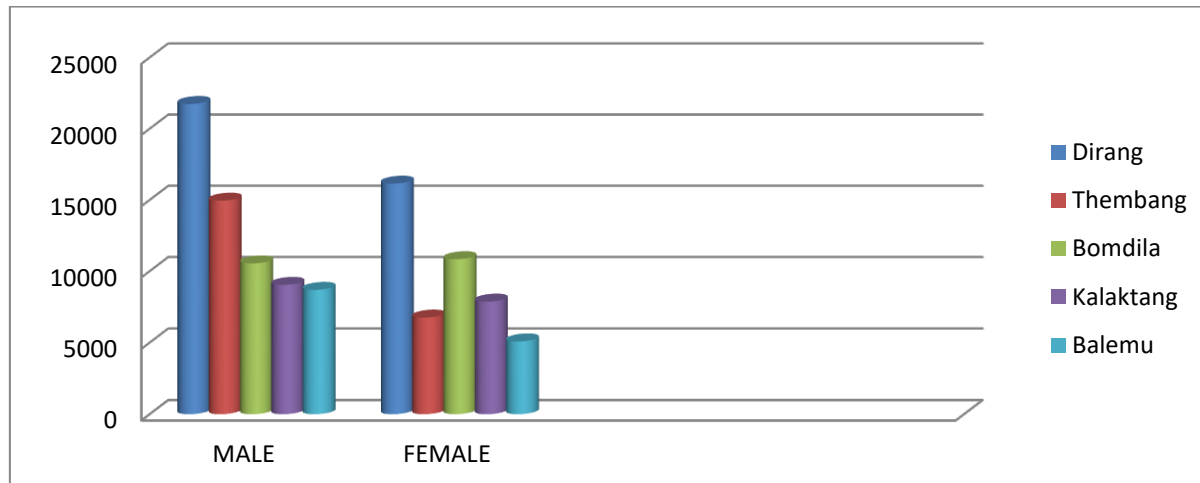


Diagram: 3

It is also unveiled from Table 4 and Diagram 3 that farmers from Balemu Circle have earned lowest income.

5. Combination of Sources of Income:

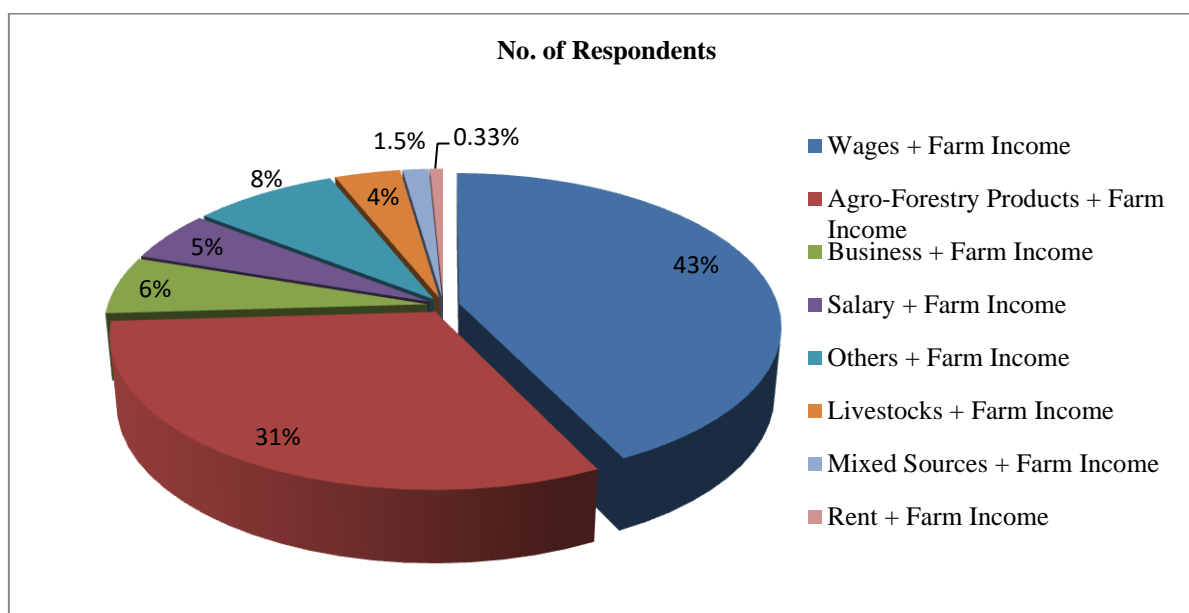
An attempt has been made to classify the sources of the respondents into Farm Income and Non-

farm Income. During the field study it is found that no respondent has exclusive income earned from farming sector. Rather, farm income is being supported by various non-farm based sources as observed from Table 5 and Diagram 4.

Table 5: Combination of Sources of Income

COMBINATION OF SOURCES OF INCOME	NO. OF RESPONDENTS
Wages + Farm Income	56
Agro-Forestry Products + Farm Income	41
Business + Farm Income	8
Salary + Farm Income	7
Others + Farm Income	11
Livestock + Farm Income	5
Mixed Sources + Farm Income	2
Rent + Farm Income	1
Total	131

Source: Field Survey, 2017-18

**Diagram: 4**

It is evident from Table 5 and Diagram 4 that 56 off 131 samples which constitute 43 percent of the total sample have earned income from 'Wage plus Farm Income'. Likewise, combinations of sources of income like- 'Agro-Forestry Products plus Farm Income'; 'Others plus Farm Income'; 'Business plus Farm Income' have occupied second, third and fourth places respectively. On the other side, 'Rent plus Farm Income' finishes the last in the row with only one respondent which shares 0.33 percent of the total sample.

CONCLUSION

Income and expenditure pattern of people of a community, region or nation indicates its socio-economic status. It reveals the purchasing power and standard of living of people. Trend in income and expenditure has also direct bearing in understanding 'Saving Behaviour' and 'Investment Potential' of the people. West Kameng District is one of the largest districts in Arunachal Pradesh with a total populace of 83,947 people. Majority of the population are from

Monpa tribe who are basically engaged in agriculture for their living. Usually, they use own capital to finance their farm activities. The farmers of the Study Area have been growing tomato, cabbage, potato, maize etc. Primarily, they grow cash crops in the study area. The farmers of Monpa community from the West Kameng District have fascinating income and expenditure facts. It is reported during the present study that only 29.77 percent of the respondents rear livestock. On an average a sample respondent of the study area earns Rs 13,850 per month and spends a total of Rs 4,793 per month. It is revealed during the study that 57 persons off 131 total samples which constitute 43.51 percent of respondents earn between Rs 5,000 to 10,000 per month. Fascinatingly, Remittances, Grants and Donation are the highest sources of income of the farmers which constitutes 29.73 percent of the total income. On circle wise analysis, Dirang Circle is on the top in terms of monthly average income. Further, Male farmers are earning more than female counterpart in the study area. In addition, 43 percent of the total sample has earned income from 'Wage plus Farm Income'

which stands highest in terms of Combination of Sources of Income.

So, the Monpa farmers from the study area earn good income far exceeding their expenditure. Therefore, their saving is noteworthy. Thus, they lead prosperous life.

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